

Remarks

A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith, in order to submit an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references provided with the Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith.

In the Office Action mailed March 10, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 1-2 except for formal matters. Examiner objected to the drawings because of improper cross-section hatching according to MPEP 608 and because some reference numerals were not clear. Formal drawings are being submitted herewith.

The Examiner also objected to claims 1 and 2 for informalities. The applicants have amended the claims to reflect the Examiner's suggestions with the exception of changing "reduce" to "increase" in claim 2, line 28. The applicants submit that the original claim language is correct and would like to draw the Examiner's attention to page 14, line 15 through page 15, line 14 of the published PCT application. Specifically, page 14, lines 28-30 state "This reduction of tractional force causes the connector conduit to *reduce* in diameter...." (emphasis added). Additionally, page 15, lines 5-8 state "As well, by *reduction* of the conduit diameter, the two optical fibers will be constrained and secured in abutment position" (emphasis added). In this instance, the two ends of the connector housing are rotated opposite one another, essentially tightening the connector conduit onto the optical fibers, holding them in place.

Therefore, the applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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Response to Office Action of March 10, 2006

Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-4972.

Respectfully submitted,



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